

Bloch—Legacy—Professor Dennis E. Vance



Professor Dennis E. Vance from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, said Konrad Bloch was a major scientist who 'pioneered our understanding of the biosynthesis of cholesterol in animals'. Having worked in Bloch's lab as a postdoctoral fellow (PDF) from 1970 to 1972, he added: 'The fundamental research that Bloch did led to an understanding of cholesterol metabolism with particular importance to plasma cholesterol. This set the stage for the development of statins. Statins are widely used throughout the world to treat hypercholesterolaemia which can lead to heart disease and stroke.'

However, Professor Vance, Distinguished University Professor, Emeritus, also noted that while Konrad Bloch enjoyed the fame that came with the Nobel Prize, he was a man who was primarily motivated by his scientific curiosity.

Of his time as a PDF with Bloch, Professor Vance recalled: 'Konrad had a deep interest in science that he passed on to us. He was kind and clearly interested to see his trainees do well. He would pass through the lab most afternoons to check on how our research was going and would discuss ideas. Even though there were huge demands on his time, he always made time to talk to the people in his lab. He was 100% supported at home by his wife, Lore Bloch, who greatly facilitated his career.'

I might add he was famous at Harvard for a one-semester course on biochemistry that he taught every year in the Fall. So many scientists and physicians I have met over the years took this course. Konrad Bloch's impact was far-reaching.'

For the past 15 years, Professor Vance's research interest has been the role of phospholipid biosynthesis in relation to atherosclerosis, diabetes, obesity, and liver disease.



Conflict of interest: none declared.

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European Congress on eCardiology and eHealth 2018

Hugo Saner reports on the 5th European Congress on eCardiology and eHealth held in Moscow, Russia



The European Congress for eCardiology and eHealth was founded in 2013 under the auspices of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Working Group on eCardiology. Previous congresses had been

organized in Bern, Switzerland and later in Berlin, Germany. In 2018, the congress took place in Moscow, Russia and was organized in close co-operation with

- the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth ISTeH,
- the European Health Telematic Association EHTeL,
- the Tele-Cardiology Working Group of ISTeH, and
- the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

The Congress was held under the patronage of the Russian Society of Cardiology.

The I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University (FMSMU) was host for the conference and responsible for the scientific programme. FMSMU is the oldest and top Medical University in Russia. In 2018, Sechenov University celebrated its 250th anniversary. The

University has grown into an academic, research, and resource Center of Excellence in the Russian healthcare system. Sechenov University develops medicine of the future based on its strong academic foundation in clinical medicine, expanding advances in frontiers of multidisciplinary research, together with the world leaders in engineering, technology, and natural sciences. Development of eHealth has also become a key priority of Russian state policy for the coming years.

The congress is intended to connect clinicians and technology to implement eHealth in daily practice. Interaction and communication between stakeholders including clinicians, researchers, developers, industry partners, healthcare organizations, and health administrators are the heart of this event.

Prof. Hugo Saner from the University Clinic of Cardiology at the University Hospital Inselspital Bern, Switzerland was the founder of this Congress and acted as Congress co-Director together with Prof. Philippe Kopylov, Institute of Personalized Medicine, Sechenov University, Moscow.



The international core faculty included Prof. Enrico Caiani from Milan, Italy, Prof. Nico Bruining from Rotterdam Netherlands, Prof. Friedrich Köhler from Berlin Germany, and Marlien Varnfield from Brisbane Australia. The Russian faculty included Evgeny Shlyakhto, Petr Glybochko, Sergey Boytsov, Yuri Belenkov, Irina Chazova, Oxana Drapkina, German Klimenko, Georgy Lebedev, Oleg Medvedev, Amiran Revishvili, Andrey Svistunov, Vladimir Starodubov, Abram Syrkin, Elena Zaklyazminskaya, Boris Zingerman, Oleg Karpov, Denis Komkov, Konstantin Koshechkin, Petr Kusnetsov, Dimitriy Kurapeev, Simon Mathskeshvili, Galina Melnichenko, Igor Anatoly Rogoza, Igor Shadekin, Mikhail Shifrin, and Leonid Makarov.

During 2 days, 21 scientific sessions, a young investigators award session, and industry-sponsored symposia were held for almost 700 participants from 26 countries. Cardiologists, allied health professionals, basic scientists, young researchers, industry representatives, and policy-makers met to share and improve their knowledge, present their research, and expand their professional network.

During the inaugural session, the president of the Russian Society of Cardiology Prof. Evgeny Shlyakhto expressed his joy in welcoming



participants in Russia and put emphasis on the dedication of the Russian cardiology community to work closely together with the ESC. Prof. Shlyakhto received congratulations from the congress co-directors for receiving the ESC Gold Medal 2018 for his outstanding achievements throughout a brilliant professional career.

The main topics of the congress included:

- (1) Digital health in Russia and worldwide,
- (2) lifestyle tracking for prevention,
- (3) tackling arrhythmias in the era of digital health,
- (4) mHealth applications, platforms, and ecosystems,
- (5) innovations in telemonitoring in heart failure,
- (6) E-imaging: next-generation systems for cardiovascular image analysis,
- (7) E-intervention and emergency care,
- (8) eHealth and cybersecurity,
- (9) big data, medical data processing using mathematical and artificial intelligence methods,
- (10) smartphones as a lab,
- (11) E-Publishing,
- (12) telerehabilitation,
- (13) regulation, security, safety, and data protection, and
- (14) the potential of digital medicine to change medical care.

It turned out, that the two most popular topics were early detection of atrial fibrillation in the digital era and telemedicine in heart failure. The potential of digital medicine to change medical care is enormous. However, it became evident that there is still a gap between digital opportunities and clinical application. How to close this gap was an emerging topic in most of the sessions. It was felt that a major asset of this congress was the interaction between different stakeholders with a great potential for helping to overcome barriers for implementation.

Finalists of the Young Investigators Award Session presented their research and were rated by a panel from the core faculty. Selected abstract presenters competed for the best poster presentation. During the closing session, awards were given to the winners which included

- (1) Patricio Astudillo, Belgium for his contribution 'Towards automated TAVI device size selection using artificial intelligence',
- (2) Svyatoslav Khamzin, Russia for 'Simulations of non-transmural infarct in human ventricles', and
- (3) Ily Romanetz for 'Robust topological approach to ECG analysis for assessment of patient's cardiac status'.



Participants not only enjoyed the lively atmosphere at the congress but also the city of Moscow with its rich cultural and historical heritage, famous museums, and magnificent architecture. The friendly attitude of the hosts, the perfect organization of the congress and the very nice and convenient congress venue at Sechenov University were highly appreciated.

Details of the event can be found by at www.ecardiohealth2018.org.

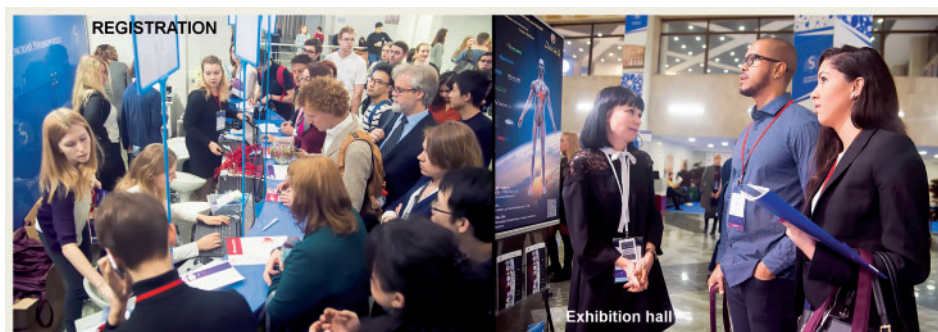


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Fifth European Congress on eCardiology and eHealth, Moscow 2018

Conclusions and Take Home Messages are discussed by Hugo Saner



eCardiology and eHealth are rapidly evolving and will become an important component of today's medical care. This report summarizes the most important conclusions and take-home messages from this past congress.

Digital skills for the cardiologist of tomorrow

A group of promising European Society of Cardiology (ESC) young cardiologists discussed how the challenges of the digital future could be converted into opportunities.